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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 6, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Guy Lanctot
Department of Commerce

FROM: Mr. Gilbert M. Johnson
Department of State

SUBJECT: E-System Exports to Argentina

REF: Your Memo of May 21

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeid, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

The Department has reconsidered its previous denial recommendation for case 340342, E-Systems computer system to the Provincial Government of Buenos Aires and again has concluded that the license should not be issued. Furthermore, if the firm were to apply for an export license for its proposed sale of the smaller system to the Municipal Government of Buenos Aires as referred to in your memo, the State Department would also recommend against issuance of the license.

The Department is of course aware of many of the beneficial purposes for which such equipment may be used. However, this knowledge does not override our concern that in this instance the equipment might be used to perpetuate human rights abuses with which the Argentine police allegedly have been involved. Although the Argentine police forces would not be the direct recipient of either of these sales, there is the strong possibility that once installed it would be adapted for police use or placed at the disposal of the police forces. Thus our continuing concern over the serious human rights situation in Argentina precludes our approval of the export of this equipment at this time.

Drafted: EB/ITP/EWT:GMJohnson
6/6/79 ext 21509

Clear: ARA/ECA:Brayshaw
cc: ARA/ECA - Mr. Brayshaw
✓ HA/HR - Ms. Bowie

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